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The stars and bars

Smith

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The
Stars and
Bars

For my friend -

Hellie Brenner

Loyally & devotedly -

Jessie Smith -



MAJOR ORREN RANDOLPH SMITH

The Stars and Bars

Speech by
Major Orren Randolph Smith

Report of "Stars and Bars" Committee
Confederated Southern Memorial Association
Richmond, 1915

Joint Resolution No. 21 of the General Assembly
of North Carolina, 1917

Report of
"Stars and Bars" Committee
United Confederate Veterans
Tulsa Reunion, 1918

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ORREN RANDOLPH SMITH.

BORN IN WARREN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA,

DECEMBER 18, 1827.

MEMBER OF COMPANY "H," 1ST N. C. REGIMENT OF
VOLUNTEERS.

WAR WITH MEXICO 1847.

CAPTAIN IN U. S. ARMY IN UTAH, 1858,

UNDER ALBERT SIDNEY JOHNSTON.

MEMBER OF COMPANY "B," 2ND N. C. BATTALION C. S. A.

LATER MAJOR IN COMMISSARY DEPARTMENT,

WITH HEADQUARTERS AT MARION, S. C.

DESIGNER OF "THE STARS AND BARS," WHICH WAS ADOPTED

BY THE CONFEDERATE STATES CONGRESS, MARCH 4, 1861.

DIED AT HENDERSON, N. C., MARCH 3, 1913.

Designed February 12, 1861,

by

ORREN RANDOLPH SMITH.

THE STARS AND BARS

By

ORREN RANDOLPH SMITH

When the Flag Committee read their report, awarding the honor of designing the Stars and Bars to Orren Randolph Smith, of North Carolina, a large silk flag was presented to his old comrades and Gen. Julian S. Carr, Commander of the North Carolina Division, "U. C. V.," read the following speech, which Major Smith had written in 1912 when he hoped to give the flag and make the speech, but his health failed and he died March, 1913.

Mr. Commander, Women of the South, Friends All:

Fifty-one years ago, North Carolina gave to Dixie the first National Flag of the Confederate States of America.

The representatives of the seven States which had seceded, were gathered at Montgomery, Alabama, when they decided to "Go it alone" if necessary and organize a NEW COUNTRY, with a New Flag. They formed a Constitution of "Native White Citizens," and advertised for a flag.

In 1855-56, I was living at Warren, Ohio, the headquarters of the underground railroad, and from that time, I kept in touch with all the great events that FORCED US INTO THE WAR. I was an original secessionist.

Having been with Taylor in 1846-48, in that War that gave the Southwest, from the Rio Grande to the Pacific to the United States, and with Albert Sidney Johnston, in Utah in 1858, I knew that a soldier's flag should have the deepest, truest significance, not be simply a blending of bright colors. His flag is his inspiration. It stands for HOME, KINDRED AND COUNTRY. It had so much meaning to me, I hoped my flag would tell its story to all who saw it. So when I read the advertisement, "Flag Wanted," I was ready.

In 1861, I was living in Louisburg, North Carolina, and I went to my old friend, Miss Becky Murphy, (now Mrs. W. B. Winborne, of Wilson, North Carolina) and asked her to put the stitches in a little flag for me, and I tore the Bars and cut the Stars while she sewed.

The idea of my flag I took from the Trinity. Three in One. The Three Bars were State, Church and Press.

Red represented State; Legislative, Judiciary and Executive; White for Church, Father, Son and Holy Ghost; Red, for Press; Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Conscience, Liberty of Press, all bound together by a field of blue, the heavens over all, bearing a star for each State in the Confederation. The seven white stars, all the same size, were placed in a circle, showing that each State had equal Rights and Privileges, irrespective of size or population. The circle having neither head nor foot, signified "You defend Me and I'll protect YOU."

If you had been in my place, would you not have wanted one of your flags to float in the breeze, whether the "Flag Committee" accepted your design or not, when you had given so much time and thought, the best that was in you, to it?

After the model was gone I asked Miss Murphy to make me a large flag, nine by twelve feet, and it was on Monday, March the eighteenth, 1861, that I raised this large flag to the top of a pole one hundred feet high, on the corner of the Court House Square, in Louisburg, the County Seat of Franklin, North Carolina.

The dress goods for both model and large flag I bought from Barrow's store, and the two men that helped me the most and were the most interested in the flags, were W. J. Green, Colonel C. S. A., and Algy Strother, now living in Louisburg.

The pole I made by splicing two tall saplings, gotten from my mother's plantation, five miles from town.

Over the large flag I had a long blue streamer, such as an Admiral uses on his ship when homeward bound, and on this I had a star for the Old North State, for though she did not secede until May 20th, I knew she was "Homeward bound."

March 18th, 1861 was a Great Day for Louisburg, the town was filled with people from miles around.

This is the story of the "Old Secesh Flag," the Stars and Bars, the Flag that led the Men in Gray through the

most difficult warfare and against the greatest ever told of in history.

This was the first National Flag and until after Manassas, when it was decided to use Beauregard's flag in Battle it was The Only Flag of the Confederate States of America.

It is the Flag the United Daughters of the Confederacy have honored above ALL OTHERS, it will never be furled as long as there is a "Daughter" to wear her "U. D. C." badge, and so keep alive the "STARS AND BARS."

To-day it leads the Southern Memorial Association and "The Daughters" in all their Great Battles for the right, raising monuments to our dead comrades at Shiloh, Arlington, Gettysburg and all over the country where lie those who gave their lives for Our Cause, and by meeting with us upon such occasions as this, they bring to us, "the days of pleasantness and peace."

Women of the South, You Southern Queens, Queens of the World, did you know that the corner stone of your great organizations, as well as your badge was a gift of the Old North State? It is true.

The corner stone was laid when the Women of Warren County (all the men were at "the front") began their monument to mark the grave of Anne Carter Lee, daughter of Our Beloved Chieftain, who died at Jones' Springs, 1862.

James Barron Hope was the orator for the day. The Monument was of Warren County Granite, carved by a Warren County man, detailed for this work, and the finishing touch, placing the capstone in position, was done by the Warren County man before you.

The South had more to do with the making of the Stars and Stripes than did the North. We, of Dixie, loved Old Glory. Did not thousands of us march under her folds in the War with Mexico, ready to sacrifice ALL for her Honor and Her Glory?

That was why I wanted to use her colors in the Flag for the South. I took the idea of adding a star for each State that joined the Confederacy from that other Southern man, Washington.

We, people of Dixie, are richer for having two flags. One brings to us the blessed dreams and memories of our youth, the Stars and Bars, the other stands for OUR COUNTRY, to live for, if need be to die for, The Stars and Stripes.

In the sixties, some Americans wore Blue, some wore Gray, ALL OUR BOYS WEAR KHAKI, "Minute Men," Ready!—at their country's call.

The Stars and Bars is Dixie's Flag alone. It is a precious legacy, Comrades, torn and shattered by shot and shell, darkened by the blood of our best and bravest. They gave their lives that it may be "The Stainless Banner." In memory of the little flag I sent to Montgomery, February, 1861, in memory of All that it means to me, I give this flag, Mr. Commander, to YOU. Will you take it in your hands for my old Comrades? May I hope that it will be used at future Reunions? Old Comrades, wherever you see this Flag, won't you give a thought to the old, old man, gray of head as well as of uniform, who gave it, the best of his heart and brain, TO YOU.

When that man whom North Carolina, from Currituck to Cherokee, loves, honors and reveres, that man among millions, OUR JULE CARR, introduced me at Our Reunion at Norfolk as the man through whom the Old North State gave the Stars and Bars to the Confederacy, I told the story as I have told it to-day. I may never tell it again, and though I did not die by shot or shell, I have tried to live, that it may be truly said, when I answer Our Great Captain's call, "Dead on the Field of Honor."

Comrades, I wish I could once more hear the Old Rebel Yell, for My Flag,

Your Flag,

Our Flag,

THE STARS AND BARS.

[A true copy.]

FROM MINUTES OF SIXTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION
OF THE CONFEDERATED SOUTHERN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION,
HELD AT RICHMOND, VA., JUNE 1, 2, 3, 1915.

June 3, 1915.

REPORT OF THE STARS AND BARS COMMITTEE.

*To the President and Members of the Confederate Southern
Memorial Association:*

The Chairman of your Committee reports that all available research has been made from testimony submitted, and begs leave to report that the Committee finds no other claim so well supported as that made in behalf of Major Orren Randolph Smith, late of Louisburg, N. C., and believe that the honor of designing the Confederate Flag known as the "Stars and Bars" rightfully belongs to the said Major Orren Randolph Smith. We wish here to speak in praise of the filial piety of Miss Jessica Smith, who has been so untiring in her zeal to place this laurel to the memory of her revered father.

Respectfully submitted,
M. LOUISE BENTON BANKSTON,
Chairman.
MRS. S. H. GEORGE.
MRS. R. G. HARRIS.

Report of Committee endorsing claim of Major Orren Randolph Smith as designer of the "Stars and Bars" was adopted.

The above committee was appointed by Mrs. W. J. Behan, President General of the Confederate Southern Memorial Association, who loyally and faithfully served this Association for eighteen years until the time of her death July 28, 1918.

(Miss) DAISY M. L. HODGSON,
Recording Secretary-General,
C. S. M. A.

Resolution No. 21.

H. R. 1390

S. R. 1158

JOINT RESOLUTION IN REGARD TO THE ORIGIN OF THE
FLAG OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.

RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-
TIVES, THE SENATE CONCURRING:

Whereas, a Committee of the United Confederate Veterans was appointed in 1914, to investigate the date, origin, etc., of the First Flag, adopted by the Confederate States of America, and the said committee, after thoroughly investigating the evidence submitted, reported at the reunion, held in Richmond, Virginia, 1915, that the first flag known as "The Stars and Bars" was designed by the late Major Orren Randolph Smith, of North Carolina, and that the said design being transmitted to the Confederate States Congress, sitting at Montgomery, Alabama, was duly adopted by that body, March 4, 1861; and that said flag was first displayed in this state by being hoisted to the mast head of a flag pole in the town of Louisburg, North Carolina, on the 18th day of March, 1861, and that a copy of the same was presented on the 27th day of April, 1861, by the ladies of Louisburg, North Carolina, to the Franklin Rifles, commanded by Capt. W. F. Green, which company was later known as Company "K," of the Third North Carolina Regiment;

Now therefore, the report of the said committee of the United Confederate Veterans which was unanimously adopted by the United Confederate Veterans at Richmond, June 2nd, 1915, expresses our belief of the true historical facts, and the said report is endorsed and ratified by this General Assembly.

Ratified this the 26th day of February, A. D. 1917.

Introduced by Mr. W. N. Everett in the Senate.

Introduced by Messrs Gray R. King and S. A. Newell in the House.

THE FOLLOWING REPORT ON THE DESIGNER OF THE
STARS AND BARS WAS PRESENTED BY COL. B. W.
GREEN, OF LITTLE ROCK, ARK.:

*To the United Confederate Veterans in Convention
Assembled at Tulsa, Oklahoma, September 25, 1918.*

Comrades:

Your Committee, appointed to consider any and all new evidence relative to the designing and making of the Flag commonly known as the Stars and Bars, and who is properly and rightfully entitled to the honor of its conception, design and execution as the original maker, designer and originator, beg leave to report:

That they have considered all new evidence which has been placed in their hands, and, after careful, full and complete investigation of all such evidence and having fully read and digested all reports heretofore made by committees which you have appointed for that purpose, we find that it will not be wise or advisable to, in any way, manner, shape or form, change or alter in any respect whatever the report heretofore made you by your Committee appointed under special order No. 30, September 14, 1914, and who reported at length to you in convention assembled at Richmond, Virginia, in June, 1915, in which report your said Committee gave and conceded the honor and fact of designing and making said flag known as Stars and Bars to Major Orren Randolph Smith, of Louisburg, North Carolina, and we, your Committee, as above set out, do most heartily concur in said report as made and delivered to you as aforesaid by your said Committee at the Richmond Reunion, 1915.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,
(Sgd.) B. W. GREEN.

On motion, it was unanimously received, approved and filed.

(Sgd.) WM. E. MICKLE,
Adjt. Gen. and Chief of Staff.

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